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To: Examiner: Johannsen, D. GROUP 1600

From: Jason Garbel

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Novozymes  
North America, Inc.  
Patents-US

500 Fifth Avenue,  
Suite 1600  
New York, NY 10110

Telephone:  
(212) 840-0097, ext. 15  
Telefax:  
(212) 840-0221

email:  
JGar@novozymes.com  
internet:  
www.novozymes.com

Attorney Docket No.: 5600.200-US

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Sandal et al Confirmation No: 1759  
Serial No.: 09/426,340 Group Art Unit: 1655  
Filed: October 25, 1999 Examiner: Johannsen, D.

For: Method For Generating A Gene Library

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

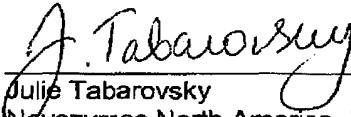
I hereby certify that the attached correspondence comprising:

1. Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal
2. Amendment
3. Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.132

was sent to the United States Patent and Trademark Office by telefax to the attention of Examiner Johannsen, D., fax number (703)872-9306.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 4, 2003

  
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Julie Tabarovsky  
Novozymes North America, Inc.  
500 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1600  
New York, NY 10110  
(212) 840-0097

Attorney Docket No.: 5600.200-US

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**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 18, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-19, 21-25 and 27 are pending. Claims 1 and 21 are amended. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a gene library from an environmental pool of organisms isolated from soil, animal dung, insect dung, insect gut, animal stomach, sea or lake water, waste water, sludge, or sediment, which gene library is enriched in DNA encoding a polypeptide with an activity of interest, which method comprises:

a) subjecting the environmental pool of organisms to cultivation under conditions wherein the pool of organisms is enriched in organisms harbouring said DNA, [wherein said enriched pool of organisms is prepared without screening the organisms for presence of the activity of interest] thereby forming an enriched environmental pool of organisms, and

b) preparing a gene library from the enriched environmental pool of organisms, [wherein said enriched pool of organisms is prepared without screening the organisms for presence of the activity of interest], wherein between step a) and step b) there is no step of isolating organisms having the activity of interest from the enriched environmental pool of organisms.